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Report from Ball (GHEB) to the Grand Mufti

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to the Grand Mufti

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1. The following is a translation from the original Arabic of a report recently sent by Emil GHURI of the Arab Higher Committee's Beirut office to the Grand Mufti of Palestine, Hajj Amin al-HUSAYNI:

"Secret.

"Suspicious Destructive Movements in Palestine Refugee  
Circles.

"Because of the unusual situation prevailing in the ranks of the Palestine refugees in Lebanon — particularly in the camps and barracks where they are living — it has become easy for various destructive movements to find fertile soil among them for the spreading of murderous poisons, deceptive propaganda, and false and tendentious rumors.

"The Jews in particular are interested in killing all national feeling among the refugees. They are exerting great efforts to split them, to alienate them from their sincere and known leaders, and to create trouble between them, the Arab states, and the Arab League. They are moreover endeavoring to frustrate the hopes of the refugees of returning to their homeland and to persuade them of the futility of clinging to the right to go back to their country. The Jews feel that the creation of confusion and differences among the refugees is one of the means by which they can realize their purpose.

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"The Jews in Palestine are cooperating with the Arab Communist Party to reach the results toward which they are aspiring. Furthermore, Communism is also, in general, endeavoring to spread its ideologies and teachings among refugee ranks and circles, taking advantage of the hardships and misery from which the refugees are suffering.

"In consequence of these efforts harmful and destructive movements have developed in refugee circles — thanks to Jewish and Communist propaganda, which is disseminated by their many agents throughout Lebanon and among the refugees themselves. Among these emissaries and agents are a group of Palestinian youth that includes certain students at the American University. These young men took for themselves the name of 'The Committee of the Congress of Homeless Arabs.' This committee is fictitious.

"They proceeded to spread propaganda in refugee circles in the name of that committee through tracts, articles in the press, visits to the refugee camps and barracks, and speeches and discussions.

"In order to gain the confidence of the refugees and to be sure that they read its publications and listened to the speeches of its representatives, the committee began to pretend extremism and sacrifice and to proclaim its insistence on the right of the refugees to return to Palestine. This demand was welcomed by the refugees.

"However, the committee does not show its real intentions. This has become evident from its publications and speeches. It demands repatriation, partition, creation of a Palestinian state in the Arab part of Palestine, and the evacuation of all foreign forces from the country. (By 'foreign forces' they mean the Syrian, Egyptian, and Jordanian forces which are occupying certain sections of Palestine.)

"The members of the Committee of the Congress of Homeless Arabs advocate a gross principle — namely, that the Palestinian people are the Arabic and Jewish people. They proclaim their desire for the establishment of a Palestinian state (Arab-Jewish), the government of which is to be formed on a proportional basis — the chief of the state to be a Jew (because the Jews form the majority in Palestine) and the head of the government to be an Arab.

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"These persons, in their publications, speeches and propaganda, have made their sole purpose the creation of differences between the refugees and the Palestinian leaders (headed by the Grand Mufti and the members of the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine) and between and refugees and the Arab governments; their presidents, their kings, and the Arab League. Their purpose is to destroy the morale of the Arabs, frustrate their hopes, sow dissension between their various classes, and create differences between the Arab rulers and the Arab peoples. They do not hesitate, in this destructive policy, to accuse the Palestinian leaders and organisations of being traitors and conspirators with foreigners, and the leaders of the Arab states and Arab League of being servants of foreigners.

"In view of the positive belief that this destructive movement is being financed, directed, and guided by the Jews and Communists (considering the many expenses of the so-called committee for tracts, publications, and travel; they are penniless refugees); in view of the fact that the aims of this group are the dissemination of destructive principles and the sowing of dissension between the Arabs in general and the refugees in particular; in view of its shameless attacks on the Palestinian leaders, on the heads of the Arab states, and on the Arab League itself; in view of the fact that its attacks are being levelled violently against the British and the Americans alone and not against the Russians, who themselves played a great part in the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine (which indicates the presence of Communist fingers behind this movement); and whereas such activities would inevitably lead to insurrections and differences (as has actually taken place for instance in the Gouraud and Wavell Barracks in Ba'lbek, in Tripoli, and in the Burj al-Barajna camp) and would threaten the interests of the refugees as well as present a threat to public security, order and status quo in Lebanon; and in order to avoid what might result from such acts and propaganda — such as problems among the refugees themselves on the one hand and between the refugees and the Lebanese government and people on the other — it is to the interests of Lebanon and of the refugees to make it incumbent on the authorities responsible for peace, order and security in Lebanon to take necessary and immediate measures to stop these acts and propaganda in order to save the refugees and Lebanon from the untoward consequences of these efforts."

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Field Note: The combined Arab-Jewish government for Palestine mentioned in this report has been reported in ELB-2229. This may, of course, be a false confirmation. The agitating group referred to is that of Muhammad al-<sup>1</sup>ISMI (ELB's-2484, 2494, etc.).

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